

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 790

By Curcio

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Edward "Tom" Tigie, former attorney with the Office of Legal Services for the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend and former colleague, Thomas Edward "Tom" Tigie, an excellent legislative attorney who had recently retired from the Office of Legal Services for the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tigie's distinguished legal career encompassed forty-four years of dedicated service to the General Assembly and the citizens of this State; he was a meticulous drafter, knowledgeable committee staff attorney, and sage advisor to legislators, and his expertise in Tennessee's criminal code was unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, a 1969 graduate of Oak Ridge High School, Mr. Tigie received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1973 and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tigie accepted the position of legislative attorney with the Tennessee Legislative Council Committee, predecessor of the Office of Legal Services, in September 1976; over the next forty-four years, his peerless legal talent and vast store of practical knowledge were heavily utilized by legislators, administrative officials, and appreciative colleagues; and

WHEREAS, during his professional career, Mr. Tigie worked with seven governors, eight speakers of the House, three lieutenant governors, seven Senate judiciary chairs, ten House judiciary chairs, and numerous Supreme Court justices, district attorneys, judges, and attorneys; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tigue also served as chief counsel for five different Article VI, Section 6 Judicial Removal Proceedings in 1978, 1983, 1987, 1993, and 2007, as chief counsel for the Senate Ethics Committee investigation of a sitting Senator in 2005, and as a member of numerous other judiciary-related task forces, study committees, and working groups; and

WHEREAS, known for his dry wit and wry humor, Tom Tigue averred that he was at least partially responsible for everything undesirable about the criminal code, as he was an original member of the Tennessee Sentencing Commission, serving from 1986 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, his receipt of the 2015 Joint Employee of the Year award demonstrated the high regard in which he was held by his peers; and

WHEREAS, Tom's gruff exterior masked a heart filled with kindness and good will, and he was always available to help friends and colleagues with repairs as a handyman; and

WHEREAS, Tom was fond of trinkets, gadgets, and new and improved office supplies and took great delight in sharing his acquisitions with his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tigue developed an abiding interest in Civil War history and had participated in numerous reenactments of Civil War battles; he also possessed a large collection of photographs and postcards featuring the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, he was a loyal Vol Forever and enjoyed attending football games at Neyland Stadium in his younger days; and

WHEREAS, Tom was a devoted animal lover who rescued two greyhounds after they were retired from racing, and he and his wife had numerous other pets; and

WHEREAS, he was also accomplished at woodworking and made several mementos from repurposed wood rescued from the renovation of the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tigue is survived by his wife, Sherri Mullins Tigue, and his brother, John Eric Tigue and wife, Diane Shanley Tigue; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service, Mr. Tigue demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity throughout his exemplary career with the General Assembly and won the unbridled respect and affection of the colleagues with whom he worked, the legislators whom he served, and the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tigue lived life with purpose and commitment, and he will be greatly missed by the entire legislative community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas Edward "Tom" Tigue, reflecting upon his loyal service to the legislative process and the State of Tennessee, the many fond memories with which he has left us, and his many good works in service of his friends and colleagues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and condolences to Mr. Tigue's family, colleagues, and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.